

## ***The October Victory and its Global Significance***

### ***October 1917 – February 1918***



“Либо диктатура (Т. Е. железная власть) помещиков и капиталистов, либо диктатура рабочего класса, середины нет.”

“Either dictatorship (that is iron control) of the landowners and capitalists, or dictatorship of the working class, [but] never a middle course.”

## Map 1

### *The October Victory and its Global Significance // October 1917 – February 1918*

Colored lithographic print, 64 x 102 cm.

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Artist: S. Starov

### Historical Background and Thematic Design

The first map in the series illustrates the major events associated with the Great October Revolution of 1917, when the Bolsheviks seized power in Petrograd and continues with subsequent events through February 1918.

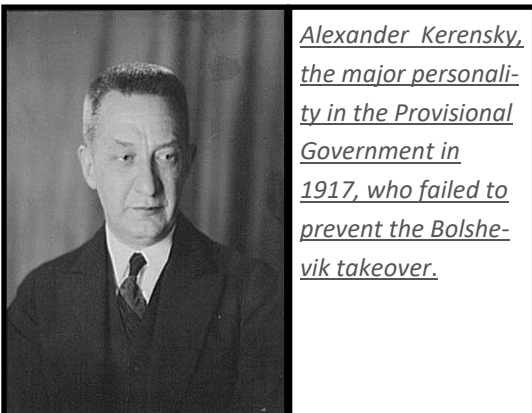
The map's focus is on the northwest sector, which depicts the communist version of the immediate after effects of the Bolshevik Revolution in Petrograd. The rise of communist power is highlighted by a suite of symbols in the vicinity of Petrograd. Flying directly over Petrograd is a large red flag, charged with the Cyrillic letters *С Н К*, which stands for the Council of Peoples Commissars, also known by its acronym, Sovnarkom. It was the first governing body of Soviet Russia, and Lenin was the chairman. The red arrows pointing toward Finland from Petrograd indicate Soviet support for the Red Guards in the Finnish Civil War. **Figure 1**



A state security apparatus was founded to protect the revolution from its many enemies. It is illustrated by the symbol of a hammer and sickle within a white flash, above the Cyrillic letters *В. Ч. К.*, or *В. Ч. К.*, and the name and date, respectively, *т. Дзержинский 1917* (The *т.* is an abbreviation of *товарищ*, the Russian word for comrade). Commonly known as the Cheka with Felix Dzerzhinsky at its head, it began almost immediately arresting and intimidating its first victims, essentially functionaries of the former regime suspected of fomenting general strikes against the new government.

Bolshevik suspicions of counterrevolution were not unfounded. The small revolver, followed by the phrase "The Attempt on Lenin," indicates the first of two serious assassination attempts on Lenin's life. It occurred in Petrograd on January 14, when he was ambushed by an assailant in the back seat of his automobile following a speech. Actions by a Swiss colleague, who suffered a minor wound, saved Lenin from being shot and possibly killed.

Various forces within Petrograd and members of the recently deposed Provisional Government sought in vain to reverse the communist revolution at the outset. A small red arrow, accompanied by the name "Krasnov" and the date 14/XI (14 November), is deflected from Petrograd. It represents the failed effort of Alexander Kerensky and General Petr Krasnov to overthrow the revolution in mid-November. **Figure 2**



*Alexander Kerensky, the major personality in the Provisional Government in 1917, who failed to prevent the Bolshevik takeover.*

Lenin's efforts to solidify complete political and military control are represented by a suite of symbols over the town of Mogilev. They include a brown and yellow flag; a red flag with a hammer and sickle emblem; and, advancing towards the town, a dashed pink arrow accompanied by the name Krylenko. These represent the Bolshevik takeover of the Russian Army at its General Headquarters.

Some forces, however, defected to pursue nationalist causes, such as is illustrated in the vicinity of Minsk by symbols of a green diamond



followed by a deflected green arrow; two small pink arrows in pursuit; and the names of two Red commanders, Vatsetis and Berzin. These refer to the defection of the Polish corps under General Józef Dowbor-Muśnicki in February 1918. Refusing a Bolshevik order to disband, the Belarussian-Polish 1<sup>st</sup> Corps joined the German offensive, which took Minsk on February 20. The Corps performed occupation duties in Belarus under German authorities until May, when forced to disband.

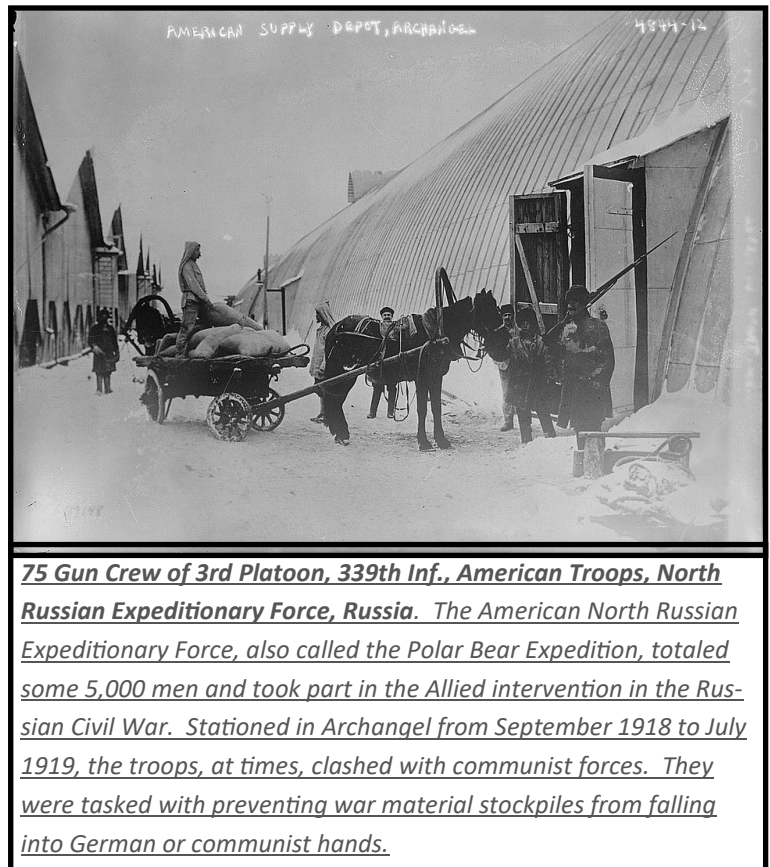
Until the end of the war, Russia's rulers feared that the western powers of America, France, and England intended to usurp the revolution. The small Allied force that landed in Archangel and Murmansk is represented by three battleships that follow the path of a large green arrow across the Norwegian Sea. It is underscored by the description, "Preparation of the Entente's intervention in Russia under the 'guise' of aid to the Soviet government against Germany." Reflected here was the deep-seated suspicion of the communists that the Allies intended to back counter-revolutionary forces. **Figure 3**

Fire, flames, and smoke that symbolize the Bolshevik uprising are the map's most dominant imagery. Flames, in combination with arrows contribute to the sense of dynamism and movement. Vibrating in orange, salmon, and violet, the flames suggest agitation and violence. Flash points identify locales in the midst of armed rebellion, while flames indicate political and labor uprisings.

Global revolution and armed struggle, igniting in Russia, are the map's motif. Fourteen dashed and zigzag lines, echoing the German version of the communist anthem the *Internationale*, are reminiscent of radio waves, which strike out from Petrograd announcing worldwide uprising to communist cells in Western Europe, Asia, and the United States.

### *Quotation by Lenin in lower corner*

"Looking at the civil war front in Russia, we are able to say with confidence: here Soviet rule is completely and absolutely secured."



## Conventional Symbols

1. Formation of a new headquarters in Dvinsk, 27 November; Tsekodarf [Central Committee of Existing Armies and Fleet] in Mogilev, 4 November; Southern front in Kharkov, 6 January.
2. Declaration of independent Ukrainian Peoples' Republic in Kiev 28 January.
3. Secession of the Caucasus 28 November.
4. Uprisings and riots: Wurzburg, 22 November; Odessa, 18 January; Kiev, 25-30 January; Rostov-on-Don and Taganrog, 9 December; Ekaterinoslav, 9 January.
5. Liquidation of the old supreme command by Krylenko, 2 February.
6. Strikes: Lyon, 25 December; Paris, 16 November; Berlin, 28-31 January; Warsaw, 26 January.
7. Declaration of the Moldavian Independent Republic, 6 February.
8. Coup of the White Guard by Dutov in Orenburg, and transfer of power from the Committee of the Salvation of the Motherland and Revolution, 8 December.
9. All Ukraine Congress of Soviets, 26 December.
10. Finland's Declaration of Independence, 26 December.
11. First assassination attempt on Lenin, 14 January.
12. Flight of the Central Council to Zhitomir, 8 February.

УСЛОВНЫЕ ОБОЗНАЧЕНИЯ		
1.		Образование новой ставки в Двинске 27/XI Ценодарфа в Могилеве 4/XII; Южного фронта в Харькове 6/I
2.		Провозглашение независимости Укайинской На- родной республики в Киеве 28/I
3.		Отложение Кавказа 28/XI
4.		Восстания и бунты: Вурцбург 22/XI, Одео- са 18/I, Киев 25—30/I, Ростов на Дону и Таган- рог 9/XII, Екаторинослав 9/I
5.		Ликвидация старой ставки главноверном Кры- ленко 2/II
6.		Забастовки: Лион 25/XII, Париж 16/XI, Бер- лин 28—31/I, Варшава 26/I
7.		Провозглашение молдавской независимой рес- публики, (6/II)
8.		Белогвардейский переворот, устроенный Дудо- вым в Оренбурге, и передача власти Комитету Спасения Родины и революции 8/XII
9.		Всеукраинский Съезд Советов 26/XII
10.		Провозглашение независимости Финляндии 26/XII
11.		Первое покушение на Ленина. 14/I
12.		Бегство Центральной рады в Житомир 8/II



13. *Defeat of the Polish corps of Dowbor-Muśnicki, 13 February.*

14. *Lithuania's Declaration of Independence, 16 February.*

15. *Estonia's Declaration of Independence, 24 February.*

16. *An appeal of interventionists by the Vladivostok City Council, 22 March.*

17. *Detachment of Ataman Annenkov.*

18. *Appearance of Ataman Kalmykov's Detachment, 12 March.*

19. *Escape of the Provisional Siberian Government to the Far East, 26-27 December.*

20. *Attempt of Czarist ambassadors to form a government in Harbin.*

